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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

General and complete disarmament: Preservation of and compliance with the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems; illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons; nuclear disarmament

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Globalization and interdependence

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 5 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a statement by His Excellency Mr. K. K. Tokaev, Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the day of admission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 29, 43, 74 (e), (q), (r), 97, 105 and 166.

(*Signed*) Madina B. **Jarbussynova**

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Annex to the letter dated 3 March 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Making the world a better place

Today marks the tenth anniversary of the day on which Kazakhstan was admitted to the United Nations, which now embraces 189 States. That took place at the forty-sixth session of the United Nations General Assembly, when the resolution on the admission of our country to membership in the Organization received unanimous approval. Moreover, it is hard to overestimate the importance of that fact, signifying as it did the acceptance of Kazakhstan by the international community as an independent State.

Since that time, many events have taken place. The United Nations has on more than one occasion been subjected to criticism, and there have been a number of pessimistic appraisals of its potential. The Organization continues, however, to represent the overriding hope of the whole of humanity for peaceful development and international cooperation. This is also evidenced by the outcome of the Millennium Summit held in New York in September 2000, whose final Declaration embodied fundamentally important provisions representing in essence a notion of the renewal of the Organization and a programme of action directed towards the normalization of international relations.

In his report on the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century, the Secretary-General highlighted three major tasks the solution of which would make it possible to change the world for the better, namely, freeing mankind from want and from fear and preserving the living human environment.

The realization of these principles unquestionably calls for the concerted efforts of the entire international community. As for our country, it supported the Millennium Declaration and thereby affirmed its intention to put vitality into the provisions concerning peace, cooperation and development.

Addressing the Millennium Summit, President Nursultan Nazarbaev noted that the process of globalization presented new challenges to the world community. In those circumstances, the appropriate answers of the community of nations play a vital role in meeting the new challenges and threats. The United Nations has the major task of preserving the positive aspects of globalization, which on the one hand opens up broad opportunities but, on the other, entails high costs which impact primarily the developing countries and States with economies in transition. This calls for large-scale, determined efforts responding to the needs of these countries and also for effective measures elaborated and implemented with their participation.

Working in the context of the United Nations, Kazakhstan consistently seeks to strengthen its sovereignty and international authority. Already, in 1992, in a statement in the United Nations, President Nazarbaev put forward an initiative to convene the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia, in keeping with the spirit of the United Nations and its practical activities aimed at strengthening regional security.

As part of its diplomacy, Kazakhstan attaches great importance to questions of disarmament and non-proliferation. We consider it feasible to move on to practical

actions to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. At the same time, Kazakhstan reaffirms its own commitments with regard to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Our country attaches due importance to the major role played in the maintenance of peace and security by the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, and considers that, even after the change in the conceptual basis of the system following the withdrawal of the United States of America from the treaty, the individual mechanisms in that instrument will find practical application in the future. Kazakhstan also supports the idea of drafting an international code of conduct for preventing the proliferation of ballistic missiles.

The accumulation of small arms is a matter of serious concern. This trend poses a tangible threat to the security and stability of a number of regions of the world, including Central Asia, taking into account the situation in Afghanistan. It is gratifying that the United Nations is giving special attention to that issue. Its work in that field over many years resulted in the adoption in 2001 of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Kazakhstan also intends to enhance cooperation with the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the socio-economic development of Central Asia. For example, the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (ASPECA) continues to be a matter of pressing importance to us, aimed as it is at stimulating the economic development of the States of the region and at strengthening mutual cooperation and the integration of those States into the economies of the countries of Europe and Asia.

The world community has recognized the importance of creating a regional transportation system in Central Asia, since the countries of the region are experiencing difficulties of access to the open sea and to world markets. Consequently, Kazakhstan pins its hopes on the successful outcome of the International Conference of Ministers of Transport of States members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, to be held in 2003, with the participation of representatives of international organizations and donor countries.

We attach great importance to the implementation of various projects in the context of the United Nations Development Programme, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Environment Programme. Our country intends also to continue its active cooperation with the World Trade Organization, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

A major aspect of the work of Kazakhstan in the United Nations remains that of enlisting the assistance of the world community in solving problems relating to the environmental disasters that occurred in the territory of the country and especially in eliminating the aftermath of nuclear tests at the former launch site of Semipalatinsk. At the initiative of the Kazakh delegation, the United Nations General Assembly in 1997, 1998 and 2000 adopted resolutions entitled "International cooperation and coordination for the human and ecological rehabilitation and economic development of the Semipalatinsk region of Kazakhstan". A programme of action was developed on the basis of those

resolutions. It consists of multidisciplinary projects in the fields of health, the environment, the economy, humanitarian assistance and the provision of information.

In 1999, an international conference on these problems was held in Tokyo under United Nations auspices. Tangible assistance is being provided: the total volume of funds earmarked for rehabilitation of the region has already reached $26 million. Work in this field will continue.

The new geopolitical realities, the profound changes in the paradigms of the present-day world and the social and cultural aspirations of the people all call for a reinterpretation of international cooperation. Accordingly, the discussions in United Nations forums on the role of the Organization in this new situation and on the ways of reforming it are proceeding in a particularly lively manner. At the same time, special stress is being placed on the need to enhance its effectiveness.

The American tragedy sharply highlighted the internal contradictions of the new world order; it revealed the dangers of international terrorism and underlined the need for fuller use of the potential of the United Nations. Kazakhstan is committed to cooperation with the United States and other participants in the international anti-terrorist coalition, and supports the measures adopted by the United Nations Security Council to identify those who organized these acts. At the same time, we consider that, in order to consolidate the success of the military operations of the coalition, it is necessary to accelerate the process of reaching a political settlement of the internal conflict in Afghanistan under the aegis of the United Nations.

Any anniversary provides an opportunity to assess the results, review the past and determine priorities for the future. Despite the short period of its membership in the United Nations, Kazakhstan has been able not only to become successfully integrated into the international community of States but also to assume a worthy place within it. That has been possible thanks to the skilful use of the country's geopolitical advantages and its orientation towards the development of cooperation with all interested States.

Kassymjomart **Tokaev**
Secretary of State and Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakhstan